

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SANKEI POLL ON INDO-CHINESE SITUATION

SUMMARY: SANKEI SHIMBUN PUBLISHED RESULTS OF TELEPHONE POLL ON LATEST EVENTS IN INDO-CHINA. POLL HAD FIVE QUESTIONS AND WAS TAKEN APRIL 23 WITH SAMPLE OF 890 RESPONDENTS IN TOKYO-OSAKA URBAN AREA.

(A) ABOUT FOUR IN FIVE RESPONDENTS (82 PERCENT) EXPRESSED EITHER "STRONG" (29) OR "SOME" (35) INTEREST IN LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM. HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF "STRONG INTEREST" WAS SEEN AMONG OLDER AGE GROUPS. A LITTLE OVER 20 PERCENT FOR RESPONDENTS UNDER 30 YEARS OF AGE, BUT ABOUT 50 PERCENT FOR THOSE IN THEIR SIXTIES. IN TERMS OF POLITICAL PARTY SUPPORT, "STRONG INTEREST" WAS TOPPED BY JCP SUPPORTERS WITH 45 PERCENT, FOLLOWED BY DSP (43), LDP (32), JSP (28), AND KOMEI (27). UNIVERSITY GRADUATES SHOWED HIGH 42 PERCENT.

(B) ASKED ABOUT INFLUENCE OF LATEST INDO-CHINESE EVENTS UPON JAPAN, 74 PERCENT FORESAW EITHER "GREAT" (21) OR "SOME" (53) INFLUENCE ON JAPAN.

(C) ASKED WHAT KIND OF INFLUENCE, 45 PERCENT REPLIED THAT "AMERICA WOULD MORE STRONGLY THAN EVER PRESS JAPAN FOR A CLOSER ALLIANCE," 44 PERCENT THOUGHT "JAPANESE ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN INDO-CHINA WOULD SUFFER." 38 PERCENT FELT "COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN ASIA, INCLUDING JAPAN, WOULD GROW MORE VIGOROUS." IRRESPECTIVE OF SEX

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OR AGE, ABOUT 40 PERCENT FELT THAT UNITED STATES WAS LOOKING

UPON JAPAN AS AN IMPORTANT ALLY.

(D) REGARDING JAPAN'S STANCE TOWARD INDO-CHINESE COUNTRIES IN THE EVENT THEY TOOK SOCIALIST DIRECTION, 50 PERCENT REPLIED THAT "THERE WOULD BE NOTHING WRONG WITH JAPAN BEING FRIENDLY WITH THEM, BUT NOT TOO FRIENDLY." 33 PERCENT WANTED JAPAN TO BE "MORE FRIENDLY WITH THEM THAN BEFORE." MORE JCP SUPPORTERS (52 PERCENT) WERE IN FAVOR OF "CLOSER FRIENDLY RELATIONS," WHILE SUPPORTERS OF OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES CHOSE THE FORMER, MORE CAUTIOUS ALTERNATIVE. (3) 75 PERCENT AVOIDED BLAMING U.S. IN ANSWERING A QUESTION ABOUT AMERICAN "DISENGAGEMENT FROM INDO-CHINESE AFFAIRS," WITH REPLIES "CANNOT BE HELPED" (46) AND "A MATTER OF COURSE" (29). 76 PERCENT OF LDP SUPPORTERS AVOIDED BLAMING U.S. END SUMMARY.

1. DO YOU HAVE ANY INTEREST IN THE LATEST NEWS ABOUT SOUTH VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA?: (A) HAVE STRONG INTEREST. 29; (B) SOME INTEREST, 53; (C) NOT MUCH INTEREST, 16; (D) NO INTEREST AT ALL, 1; (E) DK, 1.

2. PRESIDENT THIEU OF SOUTH VIETNAM STEPPED DOWN IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE FALL OF CAMBODIA'S LON NOL REGIME, THUS GREATLY CHANGING THE SITUATION IN INDO-CHINA. HOW MUCH INFLUENCE DO YOU THINK THESE EVENTS WILL HAVE ON JAPAN?: (A) HAVE STRONG INFLUENCE, 21; (B) SOME INFLUENCE, 53; (C) NOT MUCH INFLUENCE, 15; (D) NO INFLUENCE AT ALL, 1; (E) DK, 10.

3. (IF "STRONG INFLUENCE" AND "SOME INFLUENCE" IN Q2) WHAT KINDS OF INFLUENCE ARE YOU THINKING OF? (MULTIPLE REPLIES): (A) JAPAN HAS TO CONSIDER ITS OWN DEFENSE PROBLEMS MORE SERIOUSLY THAN EVER BEFORE, 20; (B) AMERICA WILL PRESS JAPAN MORE ACTIVELY THAN EVER TO STRENGTHEN ITS ALLIANCE WITH JAPAN, 45; (C) COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES WILL BECOME MORE VIGOROUS IN ASIA, INCLUDING JAPAN, 38; (D) JAPANESE ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN INDO-CHINA WILL SUFFER 44; (E) IT WILL BECOME NECESSARY FOR JAPAN TO FURTHER PROMOTE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, 23; (F) OTHER, 3; (G) DK, 3..

4. IN THE EVENT THE INDO-CHINESE STATES SUCH AS VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA TAKE A SOCIALIST COURSE, WHAT STANCE SHOULD JAPAN TAKE TOWARD THESE COUNTRIES?: (A) TRY TO BE MORE FRIENDLY WITH THEM THAN BEFORE, 33; (B) NOTHING WRONG WITH JAPAN BEING FRIENDLY WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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THEM, BUT NOT TOO FRIENDLY 50; (C) NO NEED TO HAVE FRIENDLY RELATIONS, 1; (D) DK, 16.

5. THE LATEST SERIOUS TURN OF EVENTS IS REPORTED TO BE CAUSED BY AMERICAN DISENGAGEMENT FROM SOUTH VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA. WHAT DO YOU FEEL ABOUT AMERICAN WASHING ITS HANDS OF INDO-CHINESE AFFAIRS?: (A) A MATTER OF COURSE, 29; (B) CANNOT BE HELPED, 46; (C) NOT COMMENDABLE DEED, 10; (D) NO GOOD, 3; (E) DK, 12.

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